Digital Citizenship Summary

The Digital Citizenship assignment gave me the necessary tools needed to discuss some very important rules and regulations when it comes to the use of the internet. I was able to reiterate why students must be careful of what they put on the internet and what they say. Carelessness on the internet can possibly lead to legal issues or the endangerment of their well-being. This led me to discuss internet safety. I made sure they were aware of what internet predators are and the harm that things like cyberbullying can do to fellow students. The Digital Citizenship assignment also helped me to inform the students that they must be responsible when using the internet. Unauthorized websites, cyberbullying, etc. are some of the issues I explained to them that wouldn’t be tolerated. Careless use or misuse can result in discipline or worse. From there, the Digital Citizenship manual led me to cover the legal and ethical use of the internet. Pirating was a major part of the discussion. The manual helped me to inform the students that this is illegal and that if caught, legal actions could be taken. Pirating music, movies, etc. are a direct violation of school policies and copyrights. The manual helped me to explain what a copyright is and why things like pirated music is a crime. What was interesting is that many of the students spoke of an older sibling or relative who pirates digital media. Many of them didn’t realize that doing so is against the law and could have serious repercussions.

The Digital Citizenship manual helped me remind the students that the internet is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, they must be responsible and respectful when using it. The classroom computer rules section in the manual helped me to reiterate to the students and the cooperating teacher of why it is important for the students to have separate profiles to log onto the computers and why it’s important for the teacher to have access to all the profiles. It also helps when the teacher checks the profiles for unauthorized activity. When the students know that they will be monitored, internet misuse declines, encouraging students to stay on task.

The Digital Citizenship manual helped me to address what the students should and shouldn’t do when using the internet. Again, I reminded the students that the internet is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, they must be responsible when using the internet. They should handle the equipment with care and be mindful of what they put on the internet. Inappropriate emails, cyberbullying, etc. will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Again, I explained what copyright means and how illegally downloading or pirating digital media is a direct violation of not only the school’s regulations, but the law. The email safety, copyright and plagiarism, and acceptable policy use sections in the manual all helped me to promote safe and ethical use of the internet to my students.